

Agency Operations Plan 2015-17

Agency:

The North Dakota Court System

Line of Business: (optional)

Contact:

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Technology Strategy:

The North Dakota Court's information technology environment consists of several computer systems that together assist in supporting the day to day operations of the North Dakota Supreme Court, North Dakota District Courts and some North Dakota Municipal Courts. The primary systems include the Supreme Court Docket System, District Court Case Management System, Juvenile Case Management System, and the District Court Jury System. Some of the other supporting systems include the public website, secure and publicly accessible data warehouses, Microsoft Exchange email system, digital audio recording systems, and several miscellaneous back office support systems.

Technology Infrastructure:

The North Dakota Court's technical environment consists of Windows based desktops, Citrix based thin clients and a variety of server platforms connected via an IP based network. The majority of the servers are running VMware software. Desktop support is provided through the IT department of the North Dakota Judicial Branch.

Programming languages include ASP.Net, Visual Basic, C#, SQL, HTML, Crystal Reports.

Operating systems include Windows 8.1, Windows 7, Microsoft IIS, Windows 2012 server, Windows 2008 server, and Citrix.

Databases include Microsoft SQL 2012, Microsoft SQL 2008, and Oracle.

The desktop environment includes HP thin client computers running Windows CE and Intel based desktops running Windows 8.1 and Windows 7 (32 bit and 64 bit versions).

Wide Area Network (WAN) service is provided by ITD.

The web environment consists of both intranet and internet based services to support a variety of applications.

Backup services are provided by the IT department of the North Dakota Judicial Branch.

Planned Activities:

The primary focus in the 2009-2011 biennium was to replace the aging UCIS system with the new Odyssey District Court Case Management system statewide. In the 2011-2013 biennium, the planned activities included expanding the capabilities of the District Case Management system, adding additional municipal courts to the system, expanding the use of electronic filing, expanding the use of interactive voice response (IVR) payment capabilities, and writing additional interfaces to exchange court related data with other law enforcement organizations.

In the 2013-2015 biennium, the planned activities included continued expansion of interfaces to exchange additional court related data with other agencies. In partnership with the Attorney General's office, CJIS, BCI and ITD, the Courts are working on a data exchange project that will allow the Courts to pass court related data through CJIS to other state agencies.

Two studies were conducted by third-party vendors for the Courts in the first year of the 2013-2015 biennium. The first was to study options that would provide improved business continuity processes to all Court stakeholders. This included a disaster recovery study to evaluate potential risks and assess strategies to mitigate those risks in the future. The study concluded that the Courts would be unable to recover and function for long periods of time in the event of a catastrophic disaster. The Courts worked with the vendor and ITD to lay out a continuity plan that involved process changes as well as plans for establishing a remote disaster recovery location. In the 2015-2017 biennium, the Courts will request funding from the legislature to establish a remote disaster recovery location that will house production equipment and software. The remote location will be used on a daily basis to back up and store existing production data as well as provide data processing capabilities in case of a catastrophic disaster.

The second study, also conducted by a third-party, analyzed the functionality of the current juvenile case management system. The study concluded that the system architecture was not adequate to support the requirements of electronic document storage and business intelligence reporting capabilities. The study recommended the Court replace the system in its entirety.

Technologies being considered or investigated:

The Courts will also be considering the use of tablet-based computers to increase productivity of judges and staff.